その7 なやみのルミ子
WHAT?! I DON'T WANT A NEW BROTHER OR SISTER!
HEY MOM HURRY UP AND MAKE ME A NEW BROTHER OR A NEW SISTER DAD SAYS HE WANTS ONE TOO.
CHAPTER 7: RUMIKO, THE TROUBLEMAKER
I'M CUTE! I'M CUTE, MAKO!!
I WANT A LITTLE SISTER THAT'S CUTE THIS TIME
MOMMY AND DADDY ARE FINE WITH JUST TWO KIDS!
THIS IS THE BABY BOOM GENE-RATION BET USED TO IT.
RUMIKO?! SHE'S A BRAT! SHE'S HYSTERICAL ALL THE TIME SHE'S MENTALLY WARPED
MAKO. WHY AREN'T YOU HAPPY WITH RUMIKO? WHY DO YOU WANT A NEW SISTER?

I WANT A LITTLE SISTER LIKE THE ONE MY FRIEND JAJA HAS.
WELL THEN, WHAT KIND OF LITTLE SISTER WOULD YOU PREFER?
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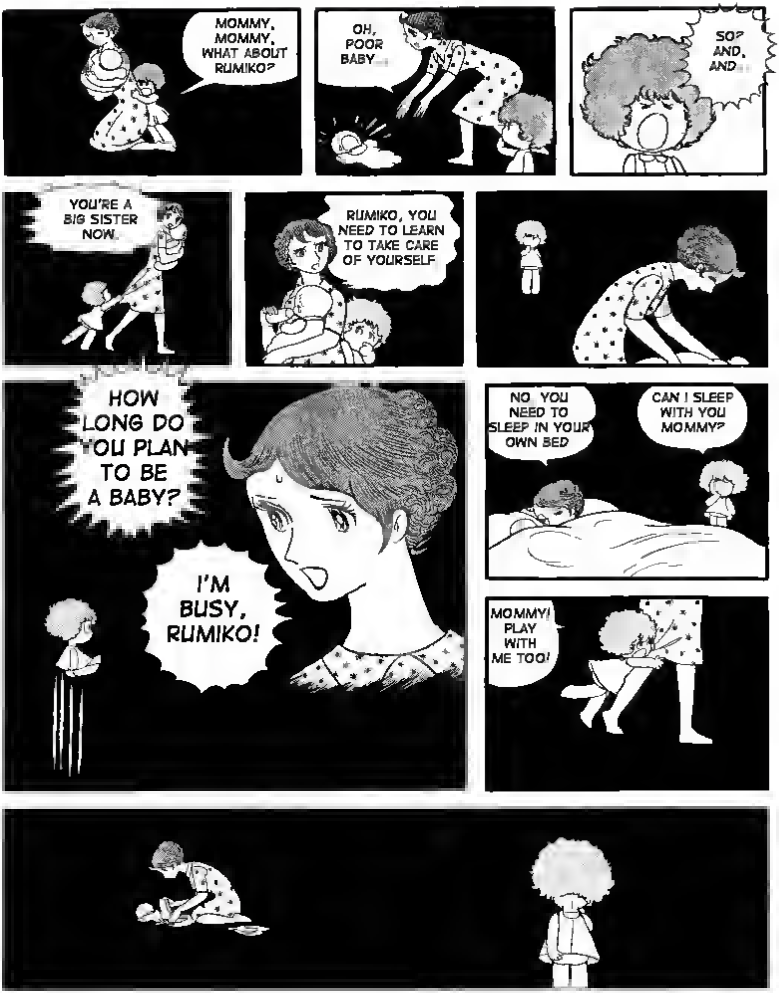
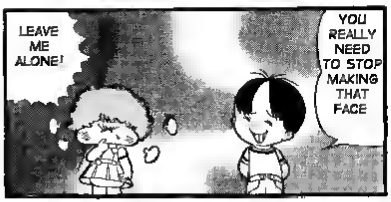
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD HER CRY?
I DON'T CARE. I STILL WANT ONE. AND DAD SAYS THE SAME THING.
MAKO, THAT'S JUST BECAUSE SHE'S AN INFANT. SOON SHE'LL BE RUMIKO'S SIZE AND ACT JUST LIKE RUMIKO, YOU KNOW.
SHE'S SMALL, AND LIGHT. SHE DOESN'T TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S THINGS, SHE DOESN'T BITE OR SCRATCH.
SHE'S CUTE. SHE'S LIKE A DOLL.
MAKO AND RUMIKO BOTH LOOK JUST LIKE ME THOUGH. I WAS HOPING TO HAVE A KID THAT LOOKED LIKE YOU.
IF SOMEONE HAS THREE CHILDREN NOW, PEOPLE SAY "MY, AREN'T YOU BUSY."
THINGS WERE DIFFERENT THEN.
WE HAVE ENOUGH TO HANDLE WITH JUST TWO.
THREE'S A CROWD, DEAR.
COME ON ONE MORE KID.
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
OUR GENERATION NEEDS TO THINK ABOUT MORE WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY
YOU THINK THREE'S TOO MANY? YOU'RE ONE OF SEVEN!

NO. NOW STOP!
IF WE HAVE MORE KIDS THERE'LL BE MORE PEOPLE TO TAKE CARE OF US WHEN WE'RE OLDER.
MAKO AND RUMIKO ARE ENOUGH!
NOT HAVING KIDS TO SAVE ENERGY...? DOESN'T MAKE SENSE
NO! NO WAY! NO! NO! NO!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, RUMIKO?
YEAH!
YOU WANT ANOTHER SIBLING, RIGHT MAKO?
SOON THEY'LL START GOING TO SCHOOL. JUST THINK.
THEY GIVE ME ENOUGH TROUBLE NOW.
DON'T YOU THINK WE NEED A LITTLE GIRL THAT LOOKS LIKE RITSU?
WHAT AM I SAYING OK TO?
YOU'LL SAY OK, RIGHT?
REALLY COUNTING ON YOUR VOTE HERE.
HM? WHAT'S TWO VS TWO?
IT'S TWO VS TWO RIGHT NOW
HEY, NEED YOU TO SETTLE A TIE.
HE SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE A NEW MANGA CHARACTER THAT LOOKED LIKE YOU.
I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE NICE
MOTHER WHY WOULD YOU GO AND AGREE TO THAT?
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
WE WIN! WE WIN! MAJORITY RULES!
SHE SAID "SURE, I GUESS"!! THAT COUNTS! WE WIN!!

NO, MOM!
OH MY YOU'RE EXPECTING!
WHEN WILL THE DELIVERY BE?
HE WANTS US TO HAVE ANOTHER BABY!
HE WASN'T TALKING ABOUT MANGA
IT ISN'T EASY, MAKO.
MOM, HOW DO YOU MAKE A BABY ANYWAY?
KNEW SHE'D COME THROUGH FOR US
WELL, YOU GET YOUR VOTE AFTER ALL.
DAD, WHY DON'T YOU JUST HAVE A BABY?
YOU CAN HELP ME BY PREPARING FOR YOUR SCHOOL! YOU STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR HIRAGANA OR KATAKANA, HAVE YOU?
I CAN TRY TO HELP
WHEN MOMMY MAKES A BABY, DADDY HAS TO GIVE HER SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL OF HIS
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU A SECRET YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE AT PRESCHOOL. OK?
IS IT LIKE LAUNDRY?
DON'T THINK I CAN HELP YOU THERE, MACK. THAT'S MOM'S JOB.

DOES SHE EAT IT?
NO, NO. SHE... WELL, SHE PUTS IT IN HER BUTT
WOW
THEN MOM HAS TO PUT THAT SPECIAL THING INSIDE OF HER.
OH! OR A PEN?
A BOOK?
WHAT IS IT? MONEY?
EVEN IF HE GIVES YOU SOMETHING, DON'T PUT IT IN YOUR BUTT!
I'LL CRY REALLY LOUD IF YOU DO!
?
?
MOMMY! DON'T TAKE ANYTHING FROM DADDY, OK?
PROMISE RUMIKO YOU WON'T!
BECAUSE, IF MOMMY HAS A BABY, SHE'S GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING OF MINE AWAY! SHE'S GOING TO GIVE IT ALL TO THE BABY!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! I HAD TO GIVE ALL MY STUFF TO YOU, REMEMBER? IT WASN'T EVEN YOUR STUFF TO BEGIN WITH ANYWAY!
WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN SAYING TO RUMIKO?!
RUMIKO, WHY DON'T YOU WANT ANOTHER BROTHER OR SISTER?


MOMMY, MOMMY, WHAT ABOUT RUMIKO?
OH, POOR BABY...
SO? AND, AND...
YOU'RE A BIG SISTER NOW.
RUMIKO, YOU NEED TO LEARN TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO BE A BABY?
I'M BUSY, RUMIKO!
NO. YOU NEED TO SLEEP IN YOUR OWN BED
CAN I SLEEP WITH YOU MOMMY?
MOMMY! PLAY WITH ME TOO!

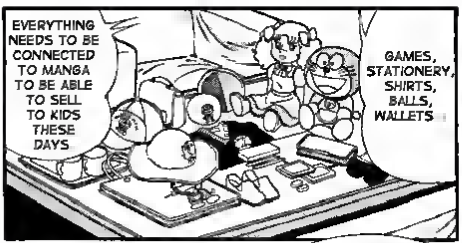

LEAVE ME ALONE!
YOU REALLY NEED TO STOP MAKING THAT FACE

THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING
SO YOU WANT YOUR MOTHER ALL TO YOURSELF IS THAT SO, RUMIKO?

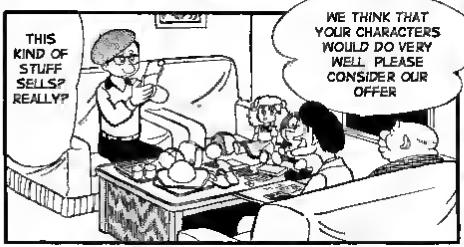
YOU NEED TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE A CUTER FACE
YOU CAN'T STAY BY YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE FOREVER, RUMIKO. YOU NEED TO LEARN HOW TO BE INDEPENDENT.
YOU DON'T THINK I'M CUTE NO MATTER WHAT I DO

ANYONE WHO TAKES MOMMY AWAY...!
I'M NOT GIVING MOMMY TO ANYBODY ELSE!

I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS FACE AT THEM FOREVER

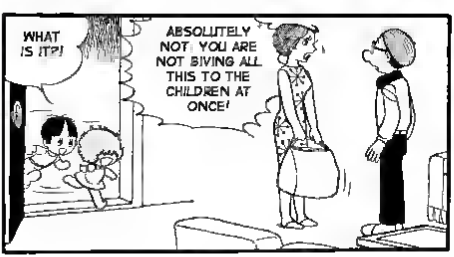

EVERYTHING NEEDS TO BE CONNECTED TO MANGA TO BE ABLE TO SELL TO KIDS THESE DAYS
GAMES, STATIONERY, SHIRTS, BALLS, WALLETS

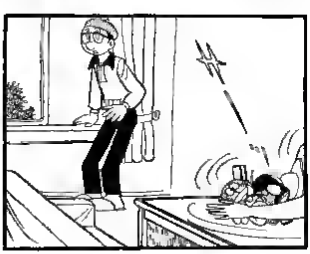
EVEN WITHOUT A YOUNGER SIBLING, YOUR MOTHER CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOU FOREVER.
BE QUIET

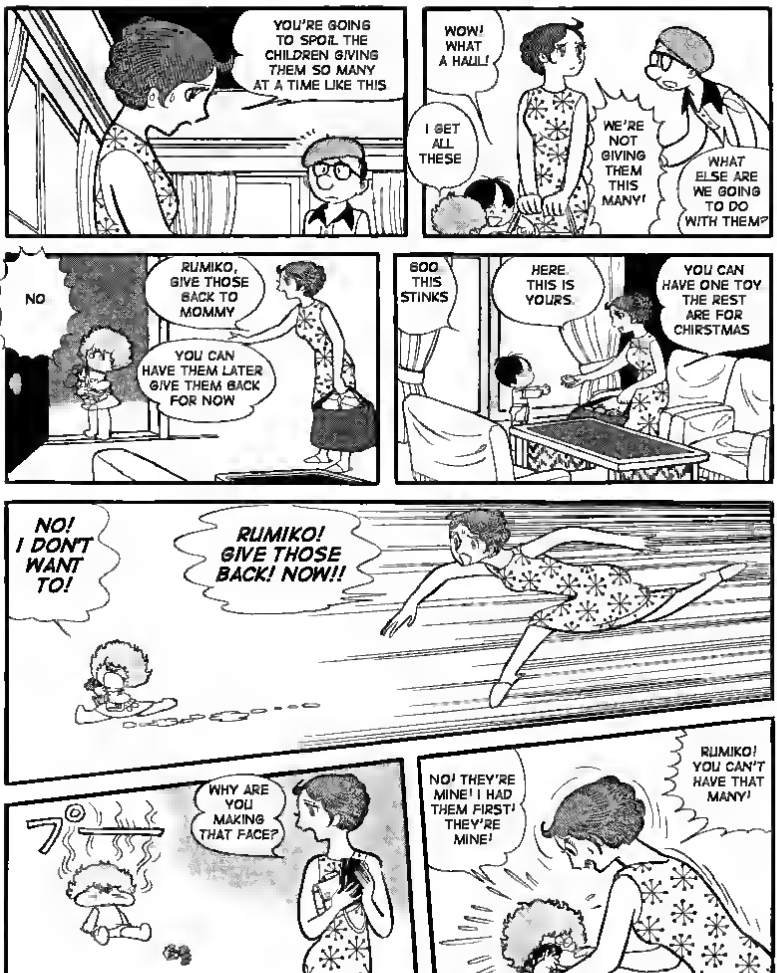

THIS KIND OF STUFF SELLS? REALLY?
WE THINK THAT YOUR CHARACTERS WOULD DO VERY WELL. PLEASE CONSIDER OUR OFFER

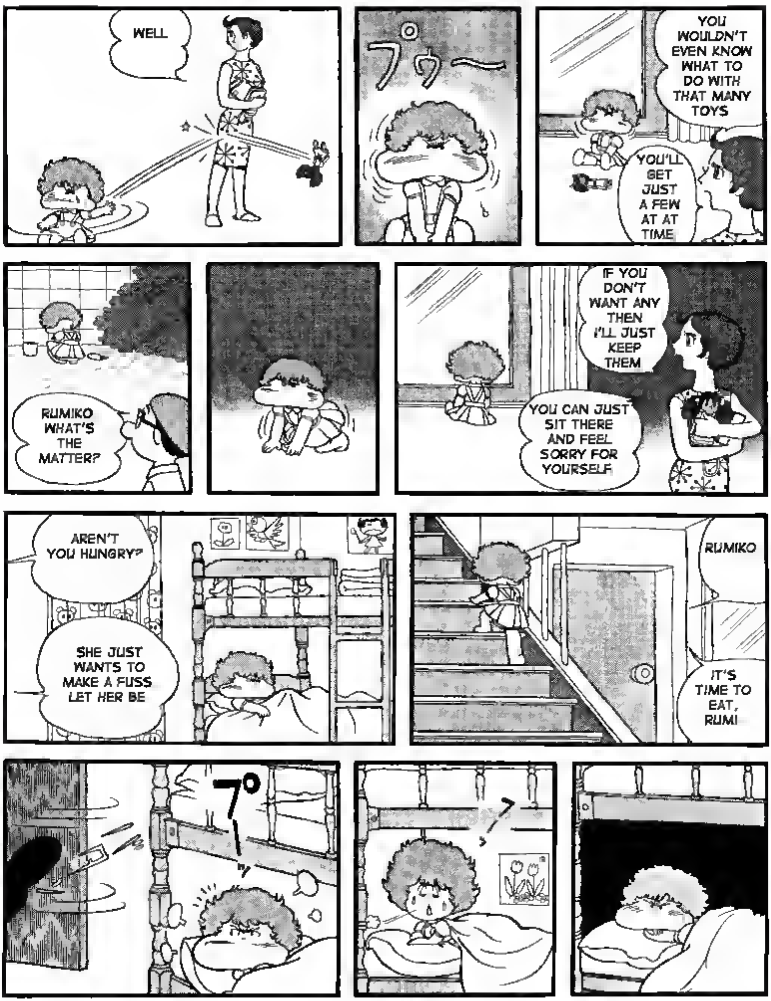
GOT SOME-THING FOR YOU!
MAKO! RUMI! COME HERE!

WE'LL LEAVE THESE SAMPLES WITH YOU AS A GIFT FEEL FREE TO GIVE THEM TO YOUR CHILDREN


WHAT IS IT?!
ABSOLUTELY NOT. YOU ARE NOT GIVING ALL THIS TO THE CHILDREN AT ONCE!




YOU'RE GOING TO SPOIL THE CHILDREN GIVING THEM SO MANY AT A TIME LIKE THIS
WOW! WHAT A HAUL!
I GET ALL THESE
WE'RE NOT GIVING THEM THIS MANY!
WHAT ELSE ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
NO
RUMIKO, GIVE THOSE BACK TO MOMMY
YOU CAN HAVE THEM LATER GIVE THEM BACK FOR NOW
BOO THIS STINKS
HERE. THIS IS YOURS.
YOU CAN HAVE ONE TOY THE REST ARE FOR CHIRSTMAS
NO! I DON'T WANT TO!
RUMIKO! GIVE THOSE BACK! NOW!!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT FACE?
NO! THEY'RE MINE! I HAD THEM FIRST! THEY'RE MINE!
RUMIKO! YOU CAN'T HAVE THAT MANY!


WELL
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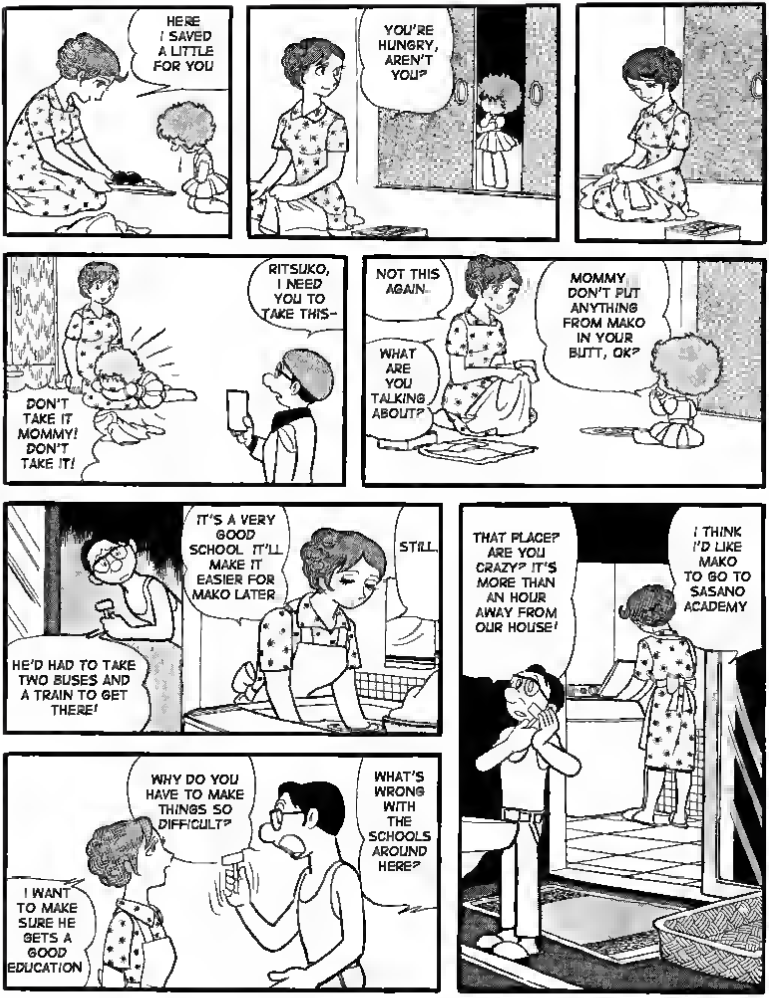
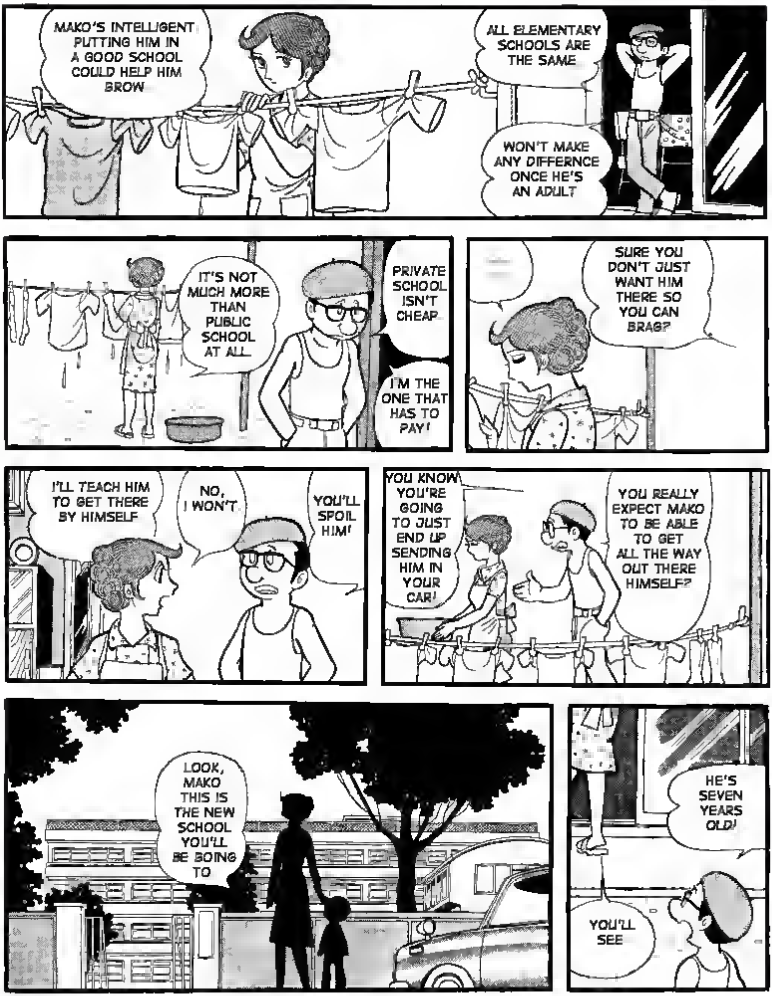
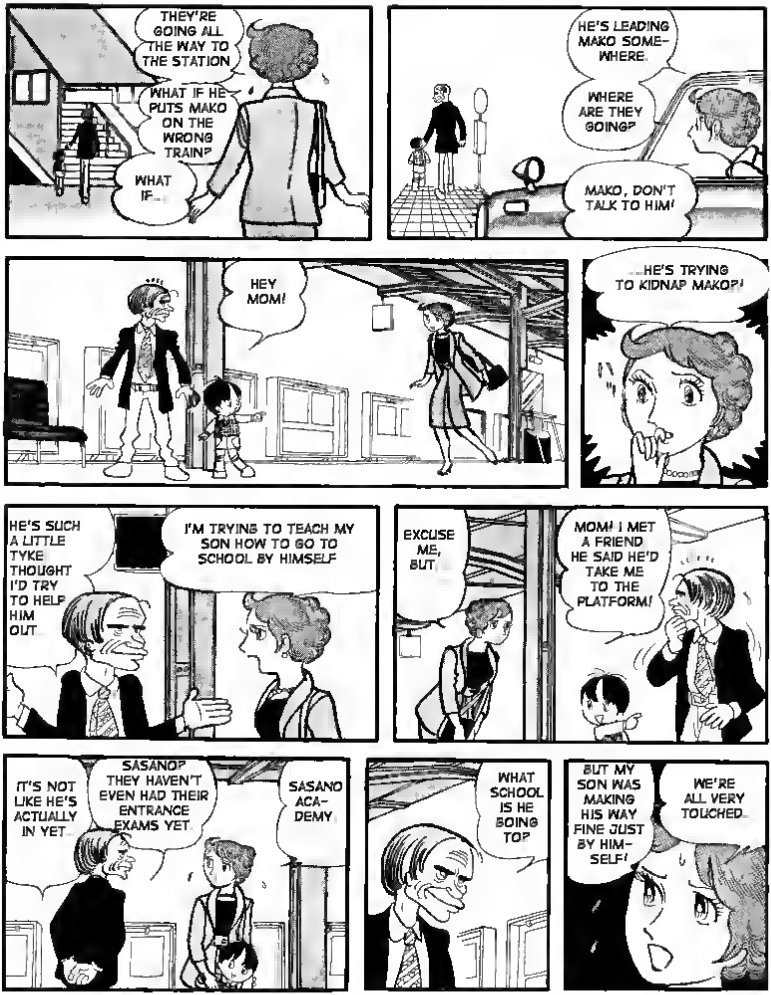
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THAT MANY TOYS
YOU'LL GET JUST A FEW AT AT TIME
RUMIKO WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IF YOU DON'T WANT ANY THEN I'LL JUST KEEP THEM
YOU CAN JUST SIT THERE AND FEEL SORRY FOR YOURSELF
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
SHE JUST WANTS TO MAKE A FUSS LET HER BE
RUMIKO
IT'S TIME TO EAT, RUMI
7°

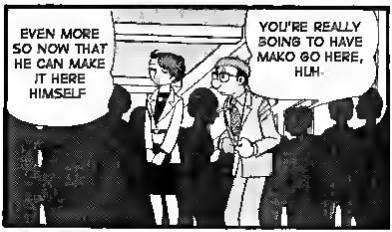
TRYING TO ORGANIZE MY STUFF BY HOW SPECIAL IT IS
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YEP.
ARE YOU GIVING THAT TO MOM?
MM.
KEEP IT?
THIS IS A PRETTY GOOD ONE
. I THINK I CAN IT'S PRETTY BIG
EVEN IF YOU GIVE HER SOMETHING SPECIAL YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO FIT IT IN HER BUTT!
YOU CAN'T MAKE MOMMY HAVE A BABY!
CAN TOO THIS IS HOW DAD SAID YOU DO IT.

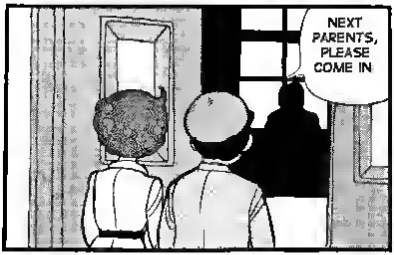

HERE I SAVED A LITTLE FOR YOU
YOU'RE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?
RITSUKO, I NEED YOU TO TAKE THIS-
DON'T TAKE IT MOMMY! DON'T TAKE IT!
NOT THIS AGAIN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MOMMY DON'T PUT ANYTHING FROM MAKO IN YOUR BUTT, OK?
IT'S A VERY GOOD SCHOOL. IT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR MAKO LATER
STILL
HE'D HAD TO TAKE TWO BUSES AND A TRAIN TO GET THERE!
THAT PLACE? ARE YOU CRAZY? IT'S MORE THAN AN HOUR AWAY FROM OUR HOUSE!
I THINK I'D LIKE MAKO TO GO TO SASANO ACADEMY
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE THINGS SO DIFFICULT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE SCHOOLS AROUND HERE?
I WANT TO MAKE SURE HE GETS A GOOD EDUCATION


MAKO'S INTELLIGENT PUTTING HIM IN A GOOD SCHOOL COULD HELP HIM BROW
ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ARE THE SAME
WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERNCE ONCE HE'S AN ADULT
IT'S NOT MUCH MORE THAN PUBLIC SCHOOL AT ALL
PRIVATE SCHOOL ISN'T CHEAP
I'M THE ONE THAT HAS TO PAY!
SURE YOU DON'T JUST WANT HIM THERE SO YOU CAN BRAG?
I'LL TEACH HIM TO GET THERE BY HIMSELF
NO, I WON'T
YOU'LL SPOIL HIM!
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO JUST END UP SENDING HIM IN YOUR CAR!
YOU REALLY EXPECT MAKO TO BE ABLE TO GET ALL THE WAY OUT THERE HIMSELF?
LOOK, MAKO THIS IS THE NEW SCHOOL YOU'LL BE GOING TO
HE'S SEVEN YEARS OLD!
YOU'LL SEE

OK!
IF I DO, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL BY YOURSELF, OK?
YOU WANT MOMMY TO HAVE ANOTHER BABY, RIGHT?
THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT HERE BY YOURSELF?
GET OFF AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THE TRAIN TAKE THE L LINE TO THE FORTH STOP, OK?
OK, I WANT YOU TO GET ON HERE AND GET OFF AT THE THIRD STOP
THANK GOODNESS HE GOT OFF AT THE RIGHT STOP
HM? THERE'S SOMEONE WITH HIM
I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT... WHAT IF HE STARTS CRYING RIGHT NOW BE STRONG, MAKO


THEY'RE GOING ALL THE WAY TO THE STATION.
WHAT IF HE PUTS MAKO ON THE WRONG TRAIN?
WHAT IF...
HE'S LEADING MAKO SOMEWHERE.
WHERE ARE THEY GOING?
MAKO, DON'T TALK TO HIM!
HEY MOM!
...HE'S TRYING TO KIDNAP MAKO?!
HE'S SUCH A LITTLE TYKE. I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO HELP HIM OUT.
I'M TRYING TO TEACH MY SON HOW TO GO TO SCHOOL BY HIMSELF.
EXCUSE ME, BUT...
MOM! I MET A FRIEND. HE SAID HE'D TAKE ME TO THE PLATFORM!
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S ACTUALLY IN YET...
SASANO? THEY HAVEN'T EVEN HAD THEIR ENTRANCE EXAMS YET.
SASANO ACADEMY.
WHAT SCHOOL IS HE GOING TO?
BUT MY SON WAS MAKING HIS WAY FINE JUST BY HIMSELF!
WE'RE ALL VERY TOUCHED...





IN FRONT OF HIM IT SAYS "PRINCIPAL"